

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3539

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, IN, AF

SUBJECT: INDIAN IMPERIALISM

AT AUDIENCE AFTERNOON APRIL 16, SHAH NOTED WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS INDIA'S LATEST IMPERIALIST MOVE, I.E., THE TAKEOVER OF SIKKIM. HE REPORTED THAT THE PAKISTANIS ARE CONVINCED THAT WITHIN TWO YEARS, OR PERHAPS ONLY ONE, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN WILL JOIN UP TO DISMEMBER PAKISTAN. MY REACTION TO THIS COMMENT WAS THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD ENOUGH INTERNAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING HER THAT SHE WOULD HARDLY WANT TO TAKE ON ANOTHER WAR WITH PAKISTAN. THE REJOINDER WAS, "MAYBE THAT IS THE REASON SHE WOULD DO IT." THE SHAH NOTED THAT A BIG INDIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY P.N. HAKSAR WILL BE COMING TO IRAN SHORTLY FOR NEGOTIATIONS. HE LEFT THIS STATEMENT HANGING, INDICATING THAT HE WAS NOT QUITE SURE IN HIS MIND HOW HE WANTED TO DEAL WITH THE INDIANS THESE DAYS. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD ASKED HIM FOR TWO THINGS: (1) ARMS OUT OF HIS MILITARY STOCKPILE, AND (2) ONE BILLION DOLLARS TO PURCHASE DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE SHAH NOTED THAT HE HAS NO STOCKPILES, THAT ALL HIS EQUIPMENT IS ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF HIS ARMED FORCES. AS FOR LOANS TO PAKISTAN, HE WAS DEBATING WHETHER TO BUT THE

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EQUIPMENT AND GIVE IT TO PAKISTAN, OR LOAN THEM SOME MONEY

AND LET THEM BUY THEIR OWN. I QUICKLY POINTED OUT THAT THE
LATTER COURSE WAS HIGHLY PREFERABLE SINCE THE FORMER WOULD
INEVITABLY INVOLVE PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.
THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM THE SHAH AS TO HOW MUCH MONEY
HE INTENDED TO GIVE THE PAKISTANIS FOR THESE MILITARY
PURCHASES.
HELMS

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NNN

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